progress; the capital outlay on the Project was Rs. 4,14,754, the aggregate outlay up to the end of the year being Rs. 58,56,911. The 'Thovala Channel Works' are nearing completion and the 'Erattakara Channel Works' are being pushed on.

11. When addressing the Fifth Session of the Assembly, I mentioned that the Government were aware that the state of communications in North Travancore compared unfavourably with that in the South and that active steps would be taken to redress the balance. The Kottayam Members were then asked to meet, under the presidency of the Chief Engineer, and to frame, in consultation with him, a programme of works. A note, giving information as to the further action taken, in pursuance of that programme, will be now circulated to the Members from North Travancore.

Railway.

12. I have elsewhere referred to the Railway from Shencotta to Quilon. His Highness' Government sanctioned, towards the close of the year, the survey of a line from Quilon to Trivandrum. The survey has been finished. The plans and estimates are awaited from the South Indian Railway Company. The cost of the survey is Rs. 38,000.

Anchal.

13. The Anchal Department continued to work satisfactorily. The number of Anchal offices rose from 181 to 192. A new line was opened from Kumili, *via* the Cardamom Hills, Deviculam and Munnar, to the North Eastern frontier at Chinnar. The total length of the Mail line rose, in consequence, from 1,200 to 1,300 miles. The total number of covers carried by the Anchal rose from 77,83,125 to 86,25,758. The Hundi business and the V. P. business done in the Anchal offices also increased. The system of Revenue Hundies for remitting the Sirkar tax to the Proverthy Cutcherries was introduced as a tentative measure, and it is reported that the public are availing themselves freely of it.

Public Health.

14. Public health was on the whole satisfactory, except for the circumstance that smallpox prevailed in a virulent form in several portions of the State during the year. Though the work of the Vaccination Department showed substantial progress during the year—the total number of vaccinations rising from 83,630 to 1,58,834—it is a matter for regret that the number of deaths from smallpox rose from 1,414 to 5,004. His Highness' Government feel that, in the matter of vaccination, a great deal can be done if non-official gentlemen, such as those who come as Members to this Assembly, would interest themselves in removing the unfortunate prejudice against it which now prevails in most places in the State, especially in Middle and North Travancore. Vaccination has now been made compulsory in the town of Nagercoil, and the Government hope in due course to make it compulsory in other towns also. But, in a matter like this, coercion cannot go far, and I would beg of the Members of the Assembly to interest themselves actively in this matter and to co-operate with the Vaccination Department.

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